

UNCLASSIFIED

H139

ACTION INR-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DOTE-00
	PDI-00	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00
	VCI-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	VCIE-00	DCP-00
	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	PA-00
	PER-00	GIWI-00	P-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00	NCTC-00
	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	ECA-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SCA-00	CARC-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00
	SWCI-00	/001W					

-----39A4C4 191057Z /38

O 191033Z OCT 06
 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3252
 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
 USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
 THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA// IMMEDIATE
 HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CCPA// IMMEDIATE
 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 AMCONSUL KARACHI
 AMCONSUL LAHORE
 AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
 AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
 AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
 AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
 AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 020576

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, IIP/T, IIP/G/NEA-SA, SA
 SA/PAB, SA/INS, SA/RA, SA/PPD, DRL
 LONDON FOR POL/GOODRICH; PARIS FOR POL/HANSON
 CENTCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS-MAJ.BALDWIN/SGT. BAKER
 USCINCPAC FOR POLAD AMBASSADOR HOLZMAN
 SECDEF FOR PA

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: MEDIA SUMMARY: OCTOBER 19, 2006

Summary: Several English and Urdu language dailies highlight

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

remarks attributed to Vice President Cheney on the extent and nature of U.S. efforts in the war on terror in Pakistan. Some dailies have also printed a clarification by an anonymous U.S. official (paras 1-2). The leading, mass circulation Urdu daily "Jang" reports that Ms. Christina Rocca will be visiting Pakistan next Saturday (para 3).

Several English language dailies have prominently printed a PAS-USAID press release highlighting U.S. assistance in eradicating poverty from the country (para 5). The Centrist national English daily, "The News" claims that a top Afghan diplomat in Washington has claimed that "the first grand Jirga is to be held before Karzai's visit to Pakistan." (para 9) .

Several editorial writers of the English language dailies have expressed serious objections to the new U.S. law against terrorism and have termed it as "a law legalizing secret CIA prisons" and "a symbol of the Bush Administration's high-handedness." (paras 11-13). However, the withdrawal of some NATO troops from Afghan province of Helmand received mixed reaction in the Urdu dailies -- some have called it a "positive step towards long-lasting peace" and others as a "depiction of demoralized foreign troops." (paras 17-20). End Summary.

----- News Stories -----

1. "US Active In Pakistan, Says Cheney" "The News" (cir. 55,000), "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000), "The Statesman" (cir. 3,000), "The Frontier Post" (cir. 7,000) "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000), "Jang" (cir. 300,000), "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (10/19)

"US Vice President Dick Cheney said on Tuesday that the United States was taking part in anti-terrorism operations in Pakistan, where more al-Qaeda members have been caught or killed "probably than any place else". "We're engaged really on a global basis. We're very active in Afghanistan. We've got continuing activities in Pakistan. We've captured and killed more al-Qaeda in Pakistan probably than any place else," he said in a radio interview."

2. "US Says Not Operating Independently In Pakistan" "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (10/19)

"A senior American official moved quickly on Tuesday to clarify a statement by Vice President Dick Cheney that the United States was taking part in anti-terrorism operations in Pakistan. "We do not operate independently there, and the Vice President was referring to the coalition against terrorism," said the official, who requested anonymity."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

3. "Christina Rocca to arrive in Pakistan on Saturday" "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (10/19)

"Assistant Secretary of State for Bureau of South Asian Affairs Christina Rocca will arrive in Pakistan Saturday on a four-day visit. She will meet with President Musharraf, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and other high officials and discuss the situation of Afghanistan, Iraq and war on terrorism."

4. "Pak-US Talks On November 6" "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (10/19)

"The second round of Pakistan-US wide length strategic dialogue is scheduled to be started in the federal capital (Islamabad) on November 6. The two-day dialogue will be held under the chairmanships of Foreign Secretary Riaz Muhammad Khan and United

States Under-Secretary of States Nicolas Burns. The purpose of dialogue is to constitute sustainable and long-term partnership between two countries."

5. "US Helps Pakistan Eradicate Poverty" "The Nation" (cir. 20,000), "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000), "The Statesman" (cir. 3,000) (10/19)

"The US Agency for International Development (USAID) Pakistan has honed the International Day for Eradication of Poverty by continuing to offer thousands of Pakistanis the wherewithal to improve their lives by providing small loans to people with no credit history and no collateral."

6. "USAID Spending \$11.5 Million For Tribal Areas' Uplift" "The Post" (cir. 5,000), "The Statesman" (cir. 3,000) (10/19)

"United States International Development Agency (USAID) is spending a sum of \$11.5 million to provide health and other facilities of the country's tribal areas' women and children, VOA reported."

7. "Pakistan Trade Surplus With US Falls By \$47.5 Million" "The Frontier Post" (cir. 7,000) (10/19)

"The first eight months of 2006 have witnessed a drop of \$47.5 million in Pakistan's trade surplus with the United States compared to the corresponding period last year despite reassurance by President Bush of further opening US markets for Pakistani goods and the ongoing efforts to reach at a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Washington. The country's trade surplus with the US came down to \$1.27 billion in January-August 2006 from \$1.318 billion in the same period last year, statistics of the US Census Bureau show."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

8. "Serious Consequences If Briton Hanged, Blair Warns Pakistan"
"The News" (cir. 55,000) (10/19)

"Prime Minister Tony Blair urged President Musharraf on Wednesday to intervene again to halt the hanging of a British national, scheduled to occur during a royal visit to his country. Blair warned of "very serious" consequences if the execution of Mirza Tahir Hussain were to go ahead on November 1, coinciding with a planned visit by Britain's Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall."

9. "Jirga To Be Held Before Karzai's Visit To Pakistan" "The News"
(cir. 55,000) (10/19)

"The first grand Jirga to be addressed jointly by President Pervez Musharraf and his Afghan counterpart, Hamid Karzai, would be held before the next visit of Karzai to Pakistan, a top Afghan diplomat in Washington said on Wednesday. US Ambassador of Afghanistan Said Taiyab Jawad told The News that Islamabad had informed Kabul that Governor NWFP Lt-Gen (Retd) Orakzai will be the person of contact to arrange the Jirga, while Kabul was shortly going to name its own contact person."

10. "India Has Put Islamabad On Terror Notice: Singh" "Dawn" (cir. 65,000) (10/19)

"India on Wednesday signaled a tough stance towards the delayed Foreign Secretary-level talks with Pakistan next month with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh declaring that Islamabad was now on notice over terrorism."

Editorials/Opinions

11. "A Bad Law," an editorial in the centrist national English daily, "The News" (cir. 55,000) (10/19)

"... The law however seems to leave too much at the discretion of one man -- the President -- by authorizing to make the determination whether any particular suspect is to be interrogated in the CIA's secret prisons. Human rights groups in the US and elsewhere have severely criticized the new law saying that it authorizes interrogation techniques that are basically nothing more than torture, such as sleep deprivation and induced hypothermia. This is treading on very dangerous ground also because such methods could 'help' extract a confession from someone who may actually be innocent."

12. "Bush Legalizes Secret Prisons," an editorial in the

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Islamabad-based rightist English daily, "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (10/19)

"President Bush has signed the controversial law legalizing secret CIA prisons.... It's a symbol of the Bush administration's high-handedness and constitutes a vehicle of grave human rights violations. As if the plunder of morality, ethics and international norms at the hands of the US civil and military authorities across the globe was not enough that the neo-cons have deemed it appropriate to grasp more powers to coerce and intimidate the world."

13. "Military Courts In America," an editorial note in Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (10/19)

"President Bush has approved a law that gives CIA extensive powers and allows terrorist cases to be tried in military tribunals.... President Bush talks about democracy in Saudi Arabia and China, yet favors setting up military courts in his own country. The U.S. Supreme Court had earlier disregarded aside his idea, so he took Congress' approval for this step. However, voices are being raised against this decision within the U.S."

14. "Afghanistan: The Need For Conciliation, Not War," an editorial in the independent Urdu daily "Din" (cir. 10,000) (10/19)

"It can also be said that the British troops have surrendered to the Taliban in Musa Qila. As a result of the treaty, the Taliban would gain popularity in the area, and the Afghan people would force the NATO troops to conduct more such agreements in other districts and provinces."

15. "Lost And Found!" an op-ed by Hamid Mir in leading, mass circulation Urdu daily, "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (10/19)

"... For the last several weeks the families of about two dozens individuals have been holding protest demonstrations in Islamabad. These individuals have been missing mysteriously for quite some time.... There is a popular perception that all these guys have been detained on the charges of their alleged links with Al-Qaeda network, but the government hasn't announced their arrest. Our authorities are trailing the FBI's technique of abducting people. But this policy is portraying the criminals as heroes. If you don't believe it, you must visit the residences of those who have been released from Guantanamo Bay Detention Center. Now, their homes are crowded with people greeting them. They regard them as heroes not terrorists."

16. "A.Q. Khan: First Hero Then Villain?," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

(10/19)

"... After North Korea's latest nuclear challenge to the world, it is not inconceivable that pressure on Pakistan for producing Dr. Khan at least in front of the IAEA for interrogation might increase. If China becomes inclined to punish North Korea, Pakistan will feel the isolation of withstanding Western pressure more intensely. The problem is that Dr. Khan continues to be the hero of many in President Musharraf's government and opposition in Parliament, if for nothing else than for purely political reasons. Therefore, in the coming days it is possible that General Musharraf may feel the heat at home, too, from an entire range of opponents, including some members of his own PMLQ."

17. "NATO Troops' Withdrawal From Afghanistan's Qila Musa," an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (10/19)

"Following the [NATO troops] peace treaty with the tribal elders in Musa Qila, President Karzai must consider instituting jirgas in the border areas with Pakistan's cooperation so that there can be peace in those areas as well. It is only with the help of the tribal elders that peace would become a possibility."

18. "A positive Step Towards Long-Lasting Peace In Afghanistan" an editorial in leading, mass circulation Urdu daily, "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (10/19)

"... NATO troops have been pulled out from the area of Qila Musa of Helmand province after a peace treaty with the local elders.... Certainly it is a positive step and it will improve security situation in the area. It is need of time to move forward with such peace treaties in other parts of Afghanistan. Afghan people are fed up with continuous turmoil and mayhem. They want to take breath in a peaceful atmosphere."

19. "Withdrawal Of NATO Troops From Musa Qila (Afghanistan)" an editorial note in Peshawar-based Urdu daily, "Mashriq" (cir. 15,000) (10/19)

"... The peace treaty in Helmand Province is a clear depiction of demoralized foreign troops in Afghanistan. History has shown that freedom loving nations had always fought valiantly for their independence and survival. Death for this greater cause is no less than an honor and reward for them. This is why; such nations have changed the course of history. Popular resistance in Afghanistan is not a new phenomenon. Afghan people had offered great sacrifices to defend their country from foreign invaders. This stiff resistance has forced NATO troops to sign treaty to avoid heavy losses."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

20. "Withdrawal Of Foreign Troops From Afghanistan Is Essential" an editorial in Karachi-based Pro-Jihad/Taliban mouthpiece Urdu daily, "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (10/19)

"... If Americans and their allied countries are not aware of the ground realities, and they are ignorant of the tribal customs and Afghan passion for freedom, they must learn lesson from the peace treaty of NATO forces with Taliban in Helmand province. Following this truce, all the foreign troops must start complete withdrawal from Afghanistan. Otherwise, they will face the wrath of Afghan people as well as will have to loose the control and power. Time is not far away when the United States will have to return with a 'medal' of the most awful defeat like that of Soviet Union." Bodde

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED